

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for playing back ~~first~~-data having
2 audio information, visual information, or audio-visual information, the ~~first~~-data containing
3 ~~second data~~a watermark, the apparatus comprising:
4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to produce the ~~first~~-data;
5 a data store configured to receive ~~at least some~~a subset of the ~~first~~-data;
6 a detecting circuit coupled to the data store and configured to process data
7 contained therein to produce a detection result, the detection result being based ~~at least on the~~
8 ~~second data~~watermark; and
9 a control circuit configured to selectively output the ~~first~~-data based on the
10 detection result.
- 1 2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a data
2 selection circuit configured to select a first ~~data~~-subset of the ~~first~~-data, the data selection circuit
3 coupled to deliver the first ~~data~~-subset to the data store, wherein the detecting circuit processes
4 the first ~~data~~-subset.
- 1 3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the capacity of the
2 data store is equal to or greater than the minimum size of the first ~~data~~-subset.
- 1 4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the detecting
2 circuit is further configured to produce a signal indicating the completion of processing of the
3 first ~~data~~-subset, wherein the selection circuit selects, in response to the signal, a second ~~data~~
4 subset of the ~~first~~-data, and wherein the second ~~data~~-subset replaces the first ~~data~~-subset.

1 5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the detecting
2 circuit is further configured to ~~produce a signal indicating~~indicate that the first ~~data~~-subset has
3 been delivered to the data store, and wherein the selection circuit selects, in response ~~thereto~~the
4 ~~signal~~, a second ~~data~~-subset from the ~~first~~-data for delivery to the data store.

1 6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the ~~first~~-data is an
2 ISO-MPEG 2 formatted data stream, and wherein the first ~~data~~-subset is an I-picture.

1 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further including a data bus coupled
2 only between the detection circuit and the control circuit, wherein the detection circuit produces
3 a signal representative of the detection result, the signal being sent to the control circuit via the
4 data bus.

1 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detection circuit produces
2 a signal representative of the detection result, the detection circuit further configured to encode
3 the signal using a decryption key, the control circuit further configured to receive the encoded
4 signal and to decode the signal using the decryption key.

1 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detection circuit produces
2 a signal representative of the detection result, wherein the detection circuit and the control circuit
3 are further configured to exchange authentication data with each other, and wherein the detection
4 circuit is further configured to deliver the signal to the control circuit when the detection circuit
5 makes a positive determination that the control circuit is permitted to receive the signal.

1 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the detection circuit is further
2 configured to encode the signal using the authentication data, and the control circuit is further
3 configured to receive the encoded signal and to decode the signal using the authentication data.

1 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detection circuit produces
2 a first signal when processing of data in the data store produces the detection result a first
3 predetermined number of times in succession, the control circuit selectively outputting the first
4 data in response to the signal.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the detection circuit,
2 subsequent to producing the first signal, produces a second signal when processing of data in the
3 data store produces a second detection result a second predetermined number of times in
4 succession, the control circuit selectively outputting the first data in response to the first and
5 second signals.

1 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first data is ISO-MPEG 2
2 formatted.

1 14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data store
2 receives at least some of the ~~first~~ data at a data rate equal to a data rate at which the reproduction
3 processing circuit produces the ~~first~~ data.

1 15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data store is
2 further configured to output data contained therein at the same time it receives ~~at least some a~~
3 subset of the ~~first~~ data.

1 16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data store
2 receives ~~at least some a subset~~ of the ~~first~~ data at a first data rate equal to a data rate at which the
3 reproduction processing circuit produces the ~~first~~ data,

4 wherein the detecting circuit is further configured to ~~produce a signal indicateing~~
5 a second data rate, and ~~<carriage return>~~

6 wherein the data store is further configured to output the data contained therein at
7 the second data rate in response ~~thereto the second signal~~.

1 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detecting circuit is further
2 configured to receive data contained in the data store at a third data rate and process the data to
3 produce a detection result at a fourth data rate, wherein the fourth data rate is equal to or greater
4 than the third data rate.

1 18. (Currently amended) An apparatus for playing back ~~first~~ data in an
2 information recording medium, the ~~first~~ data containing ~~second data~~ a watermark, the apparatus
3 comprising:

4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to produce the ~~first~~ data;
5 a data store configured to receive ~~at least some~~ a subset of the ~~first~~ data;
6 a detecting circuit coupled to the data store and configured to process data
7 contained therein to produce a detection result, the detection result being based ~~at least on the~~
8 ~~second data~~ watermark; and

9 a control circuit configured to selectively output the first data based on the
10 detection result and the type of the information recording medium.

1 19. (Currently amended) A method for accessing ~~first~~ data having audio
2 information, visual information, or audio-visual information, the ~~first~~ data containing ~~second~~
3 ~~data~~ a watermark, the method comprising:

4 receiving the ~~first~~ data from a data source;
5 storing the ~~first~~ data in a data store;
6 producing a detection result by processing data in the data store, the detection
7 result based ~~at least on the second data~~ watermark;
8 selectively outputting the ~~first~~ data based on the detection result.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein selectively outputting is
2 further based on the type of the data source.

1 21. (Currently amended) An apparatus for playing back ~~first~~-data having
2 audio information, visual information, or audio-visual information, the ~~first~~-data containing
3 ~~second data~~a watermark, the apparatus comprising:
4 first means for providing the ~~first~~-data from a data source;
5 second means, coupled to the first means, for storing ~~at least some~~a subset of the
6 first data;
7 third means for producing a detection result, including means for processing data
8 stored in the second means; and
9 fourth means, operatively coupled to the third means, for outputting the ~~first~~-data
10 based on the detection result.

1 22. (New) An apparatus for playing back data having audio information,
2 visual information, or audio-visual information, the data containing a watermark and stored in an
3 information storage medium, the apparatus comprising:
4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to reproduce the data including the
5 watermark;
6 a detecting circuit configured to detect the watermark;
7 a data selection circuit configured to select a subset of the data which is necessary
8 for the detection of the watermark;
9 a data store configured to store the subset;
10 a reproduction control circuit configured to control the reproduction of the data,
11 depending upon a result of the detection of the watermark by the detecting circuit,
12 wherein the data selection circuit produces a signal indicative of the selected
13 subset, and the data store is configured to store, as the subset, a minimum data unit necessary for
14 detecting the watermark, depending upon the signal.

1 23. (New) An apparatus for playing back data having audio information,
2 visual information, or audio-visual information, the data containing a watermark and stored in an
3 information storage medium, the apparatus comprising:
4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to reproduce the data including the
5 watermark;
6 a detecting circuit configured to detect the watermark;
7 a data selection circuit configured to select a subset of the data, which is
8 necessary for the detection of the watermark;
9 a data store configured to store the subset;
10 a reproduction control circuit configured to control the reproduction of the data,
11 depending upon a result of the detection of the watermark by the detecting circuit,
12 wherein the data store operates in a time-sharing manner to store a super-subset of
13 the data which includes the subset and to output the subset to the detecting circuit.

1 24. (New) An apparatus for playing back data having audio information,
2 visual information, or audio-visual information, the data containing a watermark and stored in an
3 information storage medium, the apparatus comprising:
4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to reproduce the data including the
5 watermark;
6 a detecting circuit configured to detect the watermark;
7 a data selection circuit configured to select a subset of the data that is necessary
8 for the detection of the watermark;
9 a data store configured to store the subset;
10 a reproduction control circuit configured to control the reproduction of the data,
11 depending upon a result of the detection control the of the watermark by the detecting circuit,
12 wherein the data store receives and stores a super-subset of the data which
13 includes the subset, at a data rate equal to one at which the data is incoming.

1 25. (New) An apparatus for playing back data having audio information,
2 visual information, or audio-visual information, the data containing a watermark and stored in an
3 information storage medium, the apparatus comprising:

4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to reproduce the data including the
5 watermark;

6 a detecting circuit configured to detect the watermark;

7 a data selection circuit configured to select a subset of the data which is necessary
8 for the detection of the watermark;

9 a data store configured to store the subset;

10 a reproduction control circuit configured to control the reproduction of the data,
11 depending upon a result of the detection of the watermark by the detecting circuit,

12 wherein the data selection circuit produces a signal indicative of the selected
13 subset, and the data store receives the signal to store the subset indicated by the signal, the data
14 store suspending updating of the subset stored therein while the detecting circuit is detecting the
15 watermark after the data store has stored a super-subset of the data, which includes the subset
16 necessary for detecting the watermark, depending upon the signal.

1 26. (New) An apparatus for playing back data having audio information,
2 visual information, or audio-visual information, the data containing a watermark and stored in an
3 information storage medium, the apparatus comprising:

4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to reproduce the data including the
5 watermark;

6 a detecting circuit configured to detect the watermark;

7 a data selection circuit configured to select a subset of the data which is necessary
8 for the detection of the watermark;

9 a data store configured to store the subset;

10 a reproduction control circuit configured to control the reproduction of the data,
11 depending upon a result of the detection of the watermark by the detecting circuit,

12 wherein the data selection circuit produces a first signal indicative of the selected
13 subset, the detecting circuit produces a second signal indicating the completion of processing of
14 the subset for the detection of the watermark, and the data store receives the first and second
15 signals and is configured to (i) suspend updating the subset stored therein while the detecting
16 circuit is detecting the watermark after the data store has stored a super-subset of the data, which
17 includes the subset necessary for detecting the watermark, depending upon the first signal, and
18 (ii) initiate the updating the subset when the data store receives the second signal.

1 27. (New) An apparatus for playing back data having audio information,
2 visual information, or audio-visual information, the data containing a watermark and stored in an
3 information storage medium, the apparatus comprising:

4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to reproduce the data including the
5 watermark;

6 a detecting circuit configured to detect the watermark;

7 a data selection circuit configured to select a subset of the data which is necessary
8 for the detection of the watermark;

9 a data store configured to store the subset;

10 a reproduction control circuit configured to control the reproduction of the data,
11 depending upon a result of the detection of the watermark by the detecting circuit,

12 wherein the data selection circuit produces a signal indicative of the selected
13 subset, and the data store receives the signal to store the subset indicated by the signal, the data
14 store being configured such that a minimum data unit necessary for detecting the watermark is
15 intermittently written, as the subset, to the data store, depending upon the signal.

1 28. (New) An apparatus for playing back data having audio information,
2 visual information, or audio-visual information, the data containing a watermark and stored in an
3 information storage medium, the apparatus comprising:

4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to reproduce the data including the
5 watermark;

6 a detecting circuit configured to detect the watermark;

7 a data selection circuit configured to select a subset of the data which is necessary
8 for the detection of the watermark,

9 a data store configured to store the subset;

10 a reproduction control circuit configured to control the reproduction of the data,
11 depending upon a result of the detection of the watermark by the detecting circuit,

12 wherein the data store outputs the subset to the detecting circuit, and is configured
13 such that the data store does not store the data containing the watermark where the data is
14 inputted while the data store is outputting the subset to the detecting circuit, and stores the data
15 where the data is inputted after the completion of the outputting the subset to the detecting
16 circuit.

1 29. (New) An apparatus for playing back data having audio information,
2 visual information, or audio-visual information, the data containing a watermark and stored in an
3 information storage medium, the apparatus comprising:

4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to reproduce the data including the
5 watermark;

6 a detecting circuit configured to detect the watermark;

7 a data selection circuit configured to select a subset of the data which is necessary
8 for the detection of the watermark;

9 a data store configured to store the subset;

10 a reproduction control circuit configured to r/o l control the reproduction of the
11 data, depending upon a result of the detection of the watermark by the detecting circuit,

12 wherein the data store is shared by the reproduction processing circuit and the
13 detecting circuit.

1 30. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the watermark represents
2 copyright protection information on the data.

1 31. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the watermark represents
2 copyright protection information on the data.

1 32. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the watermark represents
2 copyright protection information on the data.